The next issue of CHALLENGE will appear in three weeks, after which we will resume our regular biweekly schedule.

PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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OLYMPIC NATIONALISM AIMS TO DOPE WORKERS

A sign placed above Olympic Park in Brazil reads, "The Olympics Bring So Much More Than Just the Olympics." For the international working class, that slogan carries a lethal meaning. The media hype for the Olympics hides the Games' vicious anti-worker reality. Behind the surface appearance of internationalism, beyond the flags and costumes and music, lies a relentless promotion of nationalism—the capitalists' essential tool to keep workers loyal to "their" nation and "their" bosses.

Rulers worldwide, and especially rival bosses in the U.S., Russia and China, need intensified nationalism to prepare the working class for wider war. The real winner of the 2016 Olympics is imperialism; these Games are another step toward devastation for the working class. Workers in Brazil have already experienced this terror firsthand—and are fighting back.

Sport and Racism

Every four years, workers in host cities are sold the lie that the Olympics will develop the local economy and create jobs. The reality is something else: more racist police murders, more forced evictions, ever-worsening conditions for Rio's working class.

According to a report by the *World Cup and Olympics Popular Committee of Rio de Janeiro,* racist killings by police and mass incarcerations in Rio have increased sharply in years with large sporting events: the 2007 Pan American Games, the 2014 World Cup, the run-up to the 2016 Olympics. Over the 12 months ending this May, killings by police in Rio were up 135 percent. Black workers make up 52 percent of Rio's population, but represent 77 percent of those killed by police (Human Rights Watch, 7/7). In total, Rio police have killed more than 8,000 people in the past decade.

Under the guise of fighting drug trafficking, there is now a permanent military police presence in many favelas, (Rio's working-class neighborhoods.) More than 85,000 security forces patrol the streets.

Like the police murders of Black youth in the U.S., the mass murder of Black workers in Rio is the most open expression of Olympic terror. For the most part it occurred under the so-called "Workers'" Party government of the recently deposed, China-leaning Dilma Rousseff (see CHALLENGE, 4/20). With the installation of the pro-U.S. faction of Brazilian capitalists, open racism figures only to get worse. According to the *Huffington Post* (8/3), "the Olympics opening ceremony may have already won a gold medal for bad taste"—that is, racism. Only mounting pressure forced the organizers to cut a skit "in which Brazilian model Gisele Bundchen appears to be robbed by a black boy."







Over one million denounce the capitalist criminal bosses who has $18 billion for Games, but not jobs and education for the working class in Brazil.
Protesters set fire to the Brazilian flag in Rio on the opening ceremony night.

Sponsors of Imperialist War

Top U.S. capitalist institutions are invested to make these Games go smoothly and reflect well upon their friends in the Brazilian ruling class. Among the biggest sponsors of the Rio Olympics is Dow Chemical, one the world's leading merchants of war. During World War I, Dow produced the tear gas still used by cops today. After World War II, the company perfected Napalm, a sticky, flammable jelly; between 1963 and 1973, U.S. imperialism dropped 388,000 tons of it on workers and peasants in Vietnam. Dow Chemical's board of directors includes the president and CEO of U.S. Bank, a main-wing, finance capital institution that maintains racist neighborhood segregation in cities like Minneapolis, Minnesota, where Philando Castile was murdered by racist police in July. PL'ers, education workers, and youth marched on the U.S. Bank for its role in financing and profiting from segregation and racist police terror (see CHALLENGE, 8/10).

Another key sponsor is aerospace company Boeing, a U.S. military source of fighter jets, drones and nuclear missiles. These warmakers are invested in helping the U.S. bosses enlist the regional imperialist bosses of Brazil against Russian and Chinese imperialism (see page 2). In 2013, Rousseff had snubbed Boeing from winning a

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OUR FIGHT

✯Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✯ the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✯Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✯While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✯Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✯Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✯Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✯Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✯Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✯Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Russian Imperialism Strikes Back



Frontal engagements of large formations of forces at the strategic and operational level are gradually becoming a thing of the past. Long-distance, contactless actions against the enemy are becoming the main means of achieving combat and operational goals...

—Valerie Gerasimov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation (2013)

Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism.

—Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin (1917)

As the capitalist bosses of the U.S., Russia and China intensify their fight over global resources, from Eastern Europe and the Middle East to Africa and Latin America, their lethal competition is taking on a more complex form. Known as "hybrid war" or "non-linear war" or "new generation warfare," these inter-imperialist conflicts are mostly indirect and undeclared—and far less expensive than a conventional ground war. They use a broad mix of elements, from special operations assassins and private-sector mercenaries to cyberattacks and social media propaganda.

In the South China Sea, Beijing is building artificial islands and making territorial claims to fend off both regional rivals and President Barack Obama's "pivot" to Asia. The U.S., while still relying on the threat of NATO's brute force in Europe, used a computer virus to sabotage Iran's nuclear program; it funded "color revolutions" to undermine pro-Russian regimes in Eastern Europe.

Meanwhile, the "Gerasimov Doctrine," named after Russia's top strategic military planner, combines "low-end, hidden state involvement with high-end, direct, even braggadocio superpower involvement"—most significantly in Ukraine and Syria (Association of the U.S. Army, 5/20). Dealing from a position of economic and military weakness versus the U.S. and—increasingly—China, clobbered by falling oil prices, President Vladimir Putin is using "a number of equalizers," wrote Dmitri Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center think tank.

These will range from increased reliance on nuclear deterrence to the creation of local balances in Moscow's favor; from swift decision-making and bold action, including the use of force, to ambiguity and hybrid operations (3/18).

Russian Bosses Go on Offensive

In its backyard in Ukraine, Russia responded to the U.S.-backed coup in February 2014 by engineering a secession referendum that paved the way for Crimea's annexation by Russia. Putin has covertly funneled fighters and tanks to aid separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine, and a recent troop buildup along the border threatens a fragile ceasefire (Financial Times, 7/19).

Putin has out-maneuvered Obama in Syria, where Russia enlisted the U.S. bosses in an alliance against the upstart imperialist Islamic State (ISIS)—and blunted the U.S. campaign against pro-Russia President Bashar al-Assad. While massacring hundreds of civilians a month with airstrikes, the Russian rulers have secured their Mediterranean naval base at Tartus and their airbase in Latakia. They've become major players without big investments of money and troops.

But make no mistake: Any cooperation between imperialists is tactical and temporary. Hybrid war ploys may gain one set of bosses a short-term advantage, but can they consolidate control over the oil-rich Middle East? A rising China and a resurgent Russia—as well as shaky regional powers like Turkey, Brazil, and India, where bosses will sell their allegiance to the highest bidder—make the world situation increasingly unstable.

For the international working class, sharpening ruling-class rivalries will inevitably lead to mass slaughter and devastation—to World War Three. At the same time, they will present an opportunity to smash the capitalists' rotten, racist, sexist system for good. As Lenin said, it is the job of communists in all countries to turn imperialist war into class war and lead the working class to seize state power. Regardless of the rulers' shifting strategies and tactics, that revolutionary task remains before Progressive Labor Party today.

End of an American Era?

In 1991, after decades of decay into state capitalism and all the inequalities and abuses of the profit system, the Soviet Union self-destructed. That event ended the Cold War, the post-World War II contest for world supremacy between U.S. and Russian imperialism, and marked, and the dawned the so-called American Era. As the world's single superpower, the U.S. essentially cornered the market on global military intervention, from the two wars in the Persian Gulf to the invasions of Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Libya.

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Metro Workers Driving Towards Strike

WASHINGTON, DC, July 30—Union misleaders of the Metro transit system are working around the clock to derail the fight back efforts of over 500 transit workers who rallied today against racist attacks on wages, pensions, inadequate safety provisions and management abuse. Yet, transit workers and PLP members are eager to take militant actions to end these racist attacks.

Transit workers came to the rally hoping that union leaders would lay out a plan for launching a serious fight that would smash the racist attacks. Instead, they found themselves being the receivers of empty words by union leaders, local politicians and management officials.

The union president Jackie L. Jeter, the first Black woman to lead this local, pushed workers to support management's call of cutbacks that would generate funding for construction and maintenance needs of the transit system. Not surprisingly, she did not permit any speakers proposing an alternative plan like making a union strike ready rather than relying on the politicians and/or partnering with management. She did invite Paul Wiedefeld, the General Manager and Chief Executive Office of Metro, to "hear" the workers and speak to them and he agreed, but then demonstrated his contempt for the workers by conveniently cancelling his appearance.

In addition, Jeter invited Jack Evans, the chairman of the Metro Board and servant to local bosses and developers as a member of the D.C. City Council since 1991, to speak. Evans has publicly called for cutting workers' pensions, privatizing jobs, and cutting other benefits, a plainly racist attack on the 90 percent Black labor force.

Metro Bosses Derail Workers

Evans promised to get $300 million to cover the current budget deficit from the federal government, similar to the appropriations received from other area jurisdictions. This was a lie! President Bill Clinton's 1995 budget prohibited the federal government from giving Metro money for operating costs, a ban still which is still in effect. Evans then promised to get $18 billion to cover long-term construction and maintenance needs of the transit system. He proposed a sales tax on working people to help raise the money, as if the working class isn't already burdened by taxes!

Confronted with a skeptical crowd and some boos, Evans spoke as a "friend of labor." He did receive applause from some misled workers. But in reality, Evans threatens the livelihood of workers, one of whom declared at the rally that he gave his youth, skills and commitment to Metro because he thought that the company would take care of him in retirement. Evans and management, with the collaboration of the union leadership, are threatening that possibility.

These capitalist lackeys are also threatening the possibility of turning workers anger and frustration against these racist attacks into a militant fight back against the system of capitalism itself. That is their job—to offer temporary and reformist solutions that allow the bosses to continue reaping their billions of profits.

No Safety on the Job

Little attention was paid to workers who spoke at the rally about the work they do, the safety hazards they face and the skills they have. Many expressed concerns about safety on the transit system, where nearly two dozen workers and passengers have been killed in the past decade with little remorse from the union leaders and the invited politicians. They told stories about not being given bathroom breaks, and not having the parts and support they need to fix equipment properly. Workers have had to resort to picking parts in order to "make it work," the slogan of the day. The mass slogan should have been to fight back and make a union workers strike-ready!

PL'er Call out Evan's Attack

PLP wasted no time in calling out union leaders and politicians on the lies they spew. A PL'er confronted racist Evans on his proposed regressive tax on the working class in the region. The PL'er insisted the money should come from the businesses and developers in the region who are making huge profits as a result of the access the transit system provides for their customers. Evans brushed aside this suggestion as "unrealistic," unsurprisingly, since those bosses and developers contribute regularly to his re-election campaigns and would prefer to soak the workers rather than give up one dollar of their profits.

PL'er were and will continue to help make the latter slogan of fightback a reality, and to let the transit workers know that there is another alternative: communism. The transit workers don't need much convincing: after the rally over 100 of them enthusiastically took copies of CHALLENGE and spoke with PLP members of the need to be more aggressive in making the union strike ready. The task that lies ahead is to become bolder in disrupting union collaboration with management as we prepare the workers for the intense struggle that lays ahead for a communist world. Our ultimate goal is to put the working class in the driver's seat of society.✪

Shut Down System that Protects Klan




Multiracial rally against Ku Klu Klan in Anaheim


Later, antiracist beats klan member

LOS ANGELES, July 23—The Orange County, California District Attorney re-filed charges against seven of the antiracist fighters who fought the Ku Klux Klan scum earlier this year (see CHALLENGE 3/23). The original charges against the antiracists were dropped, after the DA's office kept most of the antiracists in jail for three days, including four who sustained serious injuries from the Klan. They were released with a warning that the charges could be re-filed up to four years later, under California state law.

These charges came days after antiracists beat Nazi scum of the white supremacist group, Traditionalist Worker Party, in Sacramento (see CHALLENGE, 7/13). White supremacists had attempted to rally at the State House and were immobilized by antiracist protesters with organized working-class violence, but not before the Klan stabbed 7 people. None of the KKK cockroaches were arrested. Unlike the confrontation in Anaheim, the cops stood back and watched.

The charges are various misdemeanors ranging from assault, to a vehicle code violation to resisting or delaying an officer. These charges carry between one-two years in jail and up to $13,000 in fines. Meanwhile the KKK scumbag who stabbed multiple protesters is free; according to the criminal injustice system, he acted in self-defense.

The capitalists and their armed servants of their state, the police, use many tactics to try terrorizing and intimidating the working class into submission. Sometimes, the bosses unleash police terror. Other times, they use the courts of their injustice system as a legal cover for punishing and jailing antiracist fighters, while murderous racists walk free.

Racist State Terror Rises, Struggle Continues

Emboldened, the Klan just flyered in Brea, a city near Anaheim. The kkk thugs called for white workers to fight the threat of Black Lives Matter and the Black Panthers who they claim are behind the recent cop killings in Texas and Baton Rouge.

We know whose side the cops are on. They always protect racists who come out to terrorize workers. Now the cops not only protect them but also allow them to come armed and attack counter protesters with impunity. Then the cops finish the job by brutalizing protesters physically and legally. We will not let them—the Klan in white, and the Klan in blue—scare us into silence. The working class must continue to stand up to racism.

Charge the Bosses with Genocide

The Progressive Labor Party is conducting a summer project around the fight against the KKK and the cops, which includes defending the antiracists with charges (more next issue). The dictatorship of the ruling class exposed itself yet again by charging the antiracists. The working class charges the U.S. with genocide—240 years of oppression from slavery, near extinction of the indigenous working class, to Jim Crow and modern day lynching of Black and Latin workers.

The only way to end racism, fascism and hate groups is by getting rid of capitalism. As long as we have a dictatorship of the capitalist class, we will have racist police and hate groups terrorizing workers. Communism is the dictatorship of the working class where workers will run the world without racism, sexism, nationalism and fascism. Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains! Individual violence serves only the bosses! The Progressive Labor Party has been significant in fighting the Klan at the Anaheim rally and countless others in our fifty-year history. We call for revolutionary violence—action that is embedded and organized in the masses. We call for death to the whole system, not individual ruling-class servants. Meanwhile, a local faith group is raising funds for these antiracists. Support the fight against racism by raising this issue in the unions, campuses and jobs, and pledge our mass organizations to donate to the antiracists' legal defense at *http://bit.ly/2bcOn76*.✪

J.E.B Stuart High School

Multiracial Youth Battle Racist Legacy



FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA July 28—A multiracial group of students in the Social Justice Club at J.E.B. Stuart High School are leading a fight to change their school's shameful racist name. J.E.B. Stuart was a Confederate general who fought and died to preserve slavery. The school mascot was a Confederate cavalryman, a raider, flying a Confederate battle flag. Recognizing the Confederate flag's offensiveness, school officials shaded out the flag in 2001 so it looks like a solid blue pennant. But everyone knows they simply painted over a flagrant symbol of racism and that the raider was still fighting to preserve slavery. Today's students have made a video declaring they are not raiders! (http://bit.ly/2aSPchz)

The students have pressed the issue in the school and community, among alumni and at the meetings of the Fairfax County School Board (FCSB). Today, the FCSB voted 10-2, after a year of debate and community meetings including one that involved 150 participants, to establish a working group to study the issue further. The compromise was necessary because there were insufficient votes among FCSB members to agree to a name change now. One student leader declared of this meeting, "There were many supporters, representing alumni, local organizations, and parents. That aspect was wonderful to witness. However, it was a painful meeting in many ways because most of the school board clearly does not feel that changing the name is important."

The students and their supporters are determined to carry this struggle forward in the coming year.

Members of the Progressive Labor Party have been engaged in school board events and community meetings where they have presented antiracist arguments to change the name, and met with faculty fighters, community residents, and students to build the struggle and link it to the broader fight against racism and capitalism. PLP members also engaged in discussions with older white classmates at the 50th reunion of the Class of 1966, in a challenging but important attempt to win old friends to antiracism. Not all alumni were prepared to bury the school's racist namesake, but many others wanted to see the name changed and were excited to learn more of the history in order to argue more effectively.

Virginia's Racist History

The school was opened in 1959 during the Massive Resistance movement in Virginia. Massive Resistance, led by Governor Harry F. Byrd, fought to preserve racial segregation in Virginia schools in defiance of the 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, that mandated desegregation throughout the nation. The all-white FCSB and the superintendent resisted desegregation as long as possible, despite another court decision that hammered Virginia's refusal to desegregate. Only a handful of Black students were able to enter J.E.B. Stuart High School between 1961 and 1965.

Meanwhile, the school bosses named J.E.B. Stuart High School, the FCSB also renamed Franconia High School for another Confederate general, Robert E. Lee. These namings are reflective of Fairfax County's active racist campaign against integration that lasted until 1965.

Confederate Generals Lee and Stuart fought in the U.S. Civil War to preserve the enslavement of four million Black people. Before the Civil War, Stuart served in the U.S. Army and beat and arrested John Brown, a militant fighter against slavery, at Harper's Ferry. When the Civil War began, Stuart resigned his commission in the U.S. Army and joined the Confederacy in order to fight for the "Virginia way of life", aka slavery, a system so brutal that many slave-owners calculated they could maximize profits if they worked an adult male slave to death in seven years. During the war, Stuart led a raid into Chestertown, Pennsylvania, where he captured eight free Black workers and re-enslaved them in Virginia.

Racist Symbols Lead to Racist Actions

Confederate flags and symbols of racism are unacceptable. Honoring a racist history promotes racism today. Dylann Roof, who murdered nine Black people in a church in South Carolina, proudly displayed the Confederate battle flag and other white supremacist imagery on the internet. KKK marches and rallies lead to increased anti-Black and anti-immigrant racist violence. Racist words and symbols encourage racist actions, so fighting to remove racist symbols is part of the broader antiracist and anticapitalist fight. When government agencies insist on honoring the Confederacy, it shows that capitalist governments do not want to end racism. They support racism to help maintain capitalism.

J.E.B. Stuart High School Today

Today, J.E.B. Stuart is the most diverse high school in Fairfax County: 51 percent Latin, 25 white, 10 Black, 14 Asian. Students here are, through their determined advocacy, following the leadership of fighters from such places as Baltimore, Ferguson, and Baton Rouge. They brought the antiracist fight to their school and to the FCSB when they launched a campaign over a year ago to change the name of the school. Allied alumni in turn gathered nearly 35,000 signatures on an online petition to change the school's name.

The Struggle Ahead

The key measure of success in this battle, beyond the change in the school's name itself, is whether the multiracial group of youth leading this fight link racist oppression and ideology to its roots in capitalism. PLP will continue to struggle with them to broaden the fight to include action against police brutality, mass incarceration, and violent white supremacist groups like the Klan and neo-Nazis. Hopefully, this struggle will create lifelong fighters for a society that values equality and not racism. That society will banish the ghosts of a brutal Confederacy to the dustbin of history. Instead, it will honor the antiracists in Virginia who confronted slavery and later Jim Crow segregation, often paying with their lives: Gabriel Prosser, who attempted to lead a revolution against slavery in Richmond in 1800; Nat Turner, who led a major slave rebellion in Southampton in 1831; John Brown and Osbourne Anderson, who led the raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859; and E. B. Henderson and Jacob Tinner, who founded the first rural chapter of the NAACP in Falls Church in 1915. It was the courage, conviction, and sacrifice of these unsung heroes that paved the way for today's struggle. It is the job of members and friends of PLP to enlist a new generation of courageous antiracist fighters!✪

Russia Strikes Back

Continued from page 2

NATO, the military alliance that projects U.S. power in Europe, absorbed a dozen former Soviet Republics; the U.S. expanded its sphere of influence eastward to the Russian border.

Then along came Putin. After taking power in 2000, he coerced Russia's ravaging gangster capitalists to accept more centralized control. He's used anti-worker ideas—nationalism and patriotism—to divert workers' attention from worsening living conditions and Russia's ongoing domestic oil price crisis. In 2014, his power base secured, Putin openly challenged U.S. dominance in Ukraine and Crimea. As Trenin noted:

> *This move effectively ended a quarter century of cooperative relations among great powers and ushered in an era of intense competition between them. Two years on, Moscow continues to be in defiance. The conflict with the West has deepened….Since February 2014, the Kremlin has been de facto operating in a war mode, and…Putin has been acting as a wartime leader.*

U.S. rulers are clearly worried. From Philip Breedlove, who retired in May as Commander of the U. S. European Command: "…the United States should…recognize Russia as the enduring global threat it really represents" (Foreign Affairs, July/August). A quick-hitting hybrid invasion of a NATO member, Breedlove warned, would be "brutally expensive and difficult for the United States and its allies to reverse."

In May, the U.S. installed a missile defense shield in Romania; in a Cold War echo, Russia charged that the move could enable a U.S. "first strike"—a nuclear knockout (Reuters, 5/11). In June, NATO announced plans to deploy four battalions to Poland and the Baltic nations (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia) "to deter Russian aggression" (The National Interest, 7/21). The Baltic deployments are especially provocative, since these three states were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

Working People Have No Nation

Just as the imperialist powers are preparing for the next global conflagration, so must the international working class. During World War I, millions of workers died in a fight among capitalist rulers. In Russia, the Bolsheviks turned that imperialist war into a communist revolution for workers' power, driving out the bosses and establishing a workers' state. In the wake of World War II, the Chinese communists did the same.

As the next big war approaches, workers throughout the world must take lessons from our history. We have no stake in any capitalist conflicts, no obligation to the parasitic rulers who exploit and use us for cannon fodder. Our objective loyalty is only to the working class, the class that creates everything of value. That's why PLP says, "Working people have no nations." With international, multiracial, working-class unity, we can beat the bloodthirsty bosses—by turning the guns around and building a communist revolution. Join us!✪

Phyllis Scheer, Lifelong Warrior

Comrade Phyllis Scheer died on July 25 peacefully in her sleep near her family in Houston, Texas. She was 86.

Phyllis will long be remembered as an anti-racist fighter who lived all aspects of her life as a communist, reflected in her relations within her family, with all those around her and in her unceasing struggle for a communist world. She was part of the group of men and women who founded the Progressive Labor Party. She remained active in the party throughout her life.

Building the Party

In the 1940s and 1950s, Phyllis was a member of the old Communist Party (CP) and showed her commitment to the working class when, in the early '50s, she left Brooklyn with her family to settle in Buffalo, N.Y., then the largest manufacturing center in the state. She, along with her husband Morty — who went to work in a factory — became part of the CP's concentration among industrial workers. There she raised her two sons, Ben and Sammy, and joined working-class struggles in the schools and in the community in which they lived.

Soon it became evident to the group of comrades engaged in this concentration that the old CP was abandoning many revolutionary principles, accommodating itself to capitalism, its electoral circuses and its exploitations. Phyllis joined most of this group in quitting the moribund CP and in 1962 organized the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM).

In Buffalo, Phyllis became part of the fights against the ruling class's anti-communist attacks, especially in routing the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) which was attempting to oust the communists from the factories. She was part of the drive to collect food and clothing for the heroic miners of Hazard, Kentucky, who were on a wildcat strike against the coal barons. By 1965, this group of comrades led like-minded workers and youth to form a new revolutionary party, the Progressive Labor Party, whose founding convention Phyllis attended. The group from Buffalo was a central part of the core of the new PLP.

Phyllis again demonstrated her commitment to building the Party by responding to its aim to build nation-wide by moving with her husband Morty — then a vice-chairperson of PLP—to establish the Party in San Francisco, where it remains today. It was there that Morty suffered two heart attacks and, after having helped organize the Party in the Bay Area, the family returned to Brooklyn and settled in the Flatbush neighborhood. There, Phyllis participated in militant community struggles, including fighting profit-hungry landlords. By now she had also become a teacher and was active in the teachers' union.

Model of a Family Collective

In September, 1986, the first of a series of tragedies struck Phyllis: her beloved husband Morty suffered a fatal heart attack and died while he was giving a report to a meeting of the Party's Central Committee. As Phyllis remarked, "Mort was stricken among the people and the Party he loved."

Phyllis's and Morty's apartment had become a setting for young people in and out of the Party, many of whom were teenagers "in rebellion" against their parents. There they learned from the positive example of the closeness existing between Phyllis's sons and their parents. Her hospitality made its mark on many visitors, illustrating how a communist family lives out its principles every day.

As her sons grew older and eventually left the home, Phyllis continued her activities in the community and the union. She proudly marched in the May Days organized by the Party in Washington, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Then, having survived the sudden death of her husband, two more tragedies struck Phyllis — both her sons, Sammy and Ben, died of heart attacks in their fifties. Not many families could endure such adversity but Phyllis's strengths won out. With the help of her comrades and her devotion to fighting the evils of capitalism, a lifelong struggle, Phyllis continued her life as a communist. She now had two grandchildren and a daughter-in-law in Texas who she visited as often as she could.



Honor Phyllis, Build Communism

In her final years, Phyllis participated in a series of Party study-action groups, lending her experiences to younger people who were influenced to join PLP by the understanding she brought them from her life of struggle. Sometimes she would express to them her feeling that because of her physical inability to join militant actions with them, maybe she should withdraw from the group. But they cried, "No! No! We need you and your insights on how to react to all the ups and downs of political and personal struggle." She was convinced and remained as long as physically possible.

Phyllis's ability to interact with the workers and youth around her, as well as within her family, is a lesson of how to influence all those we know to fight for a society in which the working class will rule. Phyllis's life stands as an outstanding example of why communism will win. We can honor her by building and funding the Party she loved.✪

Olympic Nationalism Aims to Dope Workers

Continued from page 1

$4.5 billion contract for new fighter jets, blaming the company's unwillingness to share technology with Brazil's military (Bloomberg, 12/19/13). Boeing's concerns likely stemmed from a Rousseff visit to Russia where she and President Vladimir Putin signed "breakthrough" agreements on sharing "research, development and production" of military technology (Pravda, 5/2/13).

Eviction and Fightback

While Brazil will spend nearly $20 billion on the Olympics, the country is currently in the midst of its worst recession since the 1930s. Of Rio's 6.3 million residents, 1.4 million live in poverty-ridden favelas. Gentrification in some "pacified" favelas has driven up real estate values and priced residents out. Mass evictions and forced relocations have displaced more than 77,000 people, bringing Rio's homeless population to over 800,000.

But workers have fought back, often with women taking the lead. For years, residents of the Vila Autodromo community have resisted evictions and home demolitions related to nearby Olympic Park construction. In 2014, thousands of Olympic Village construction workers clashed with security forces over benefits and working conditions. Public prosecutors found that workers were living in conditions so squalid—with rats, cockroaches, and open sewage—that they were comparable to slavery (Reuters, 8/15/15).

Last year, residents fought off police-led evictions by pelting the cops with rocks. This year, workers repeatedly charged lines of police around the Olympic torch-bearers, attempting to extinguish the flame in protest. Days before the Games were set to begin, customs officials and dockworkers began a work slowdown. Workers were protesting wage increases promised by the misleader Rousseff but never delivered.

The bosses' media mostly ignores the workers and youth of Brazil fighting in the streets, focusing instead on the Games. They have hyped the Russian scandal around performance-enhancing drugs, conveniently overlooking the long and sordid history of U.S. doping at the Olympics (New York Times, 8/4). Workers have no stake in siding with any nation's Olympic team, just as they have no side in the inter-imperialist rivalries mirrored by the Games.

Communist Sports: Solidarity First, Competition Second

Under capitalism, cheating and drugs reflect a drive to "win at all costs." But this reactionary outlook is a win for the bosses and a disaster for our class. Before every major imperialist world war, the capitalists set the stage by intensifying nationalism, racism, and sexism—anti-worker ideologies promoted by the Olympic Games. So when the U.S. bosses' media cheer that this Olympics is "resurrecting a Cold War rivalry" (CNN, 8/8) between the U.S. and Russia, it's the task of communists in Progressive Labor Party to learn from militant workers in Brazil and fight that much harder for internationalism.

PLP is organizing in more than two dozen countries for communism, drawing inspiration from the first workers' states like the Soviet Union. Soviet workers fought the "win at all costs" mentality by building free gymnasiums while cultivating a physical culture of health and wellness. During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, leftist workers and students encouraged mass participation in sports under the slogan, "Friendship first, competition second." They emphasized the fundamental unity of the working class over the temporary rivalry of competition. Communists fight for a world where all workers can reach their full potential.



In 1968, these international and multiracial Olympic medalists took a stand against racist police terror. (The white athlete, from Australia, lent the two Black U.S. athletes the gloves on their raised fists).

Workers have no nation. We have one class, the international working class. We have one flag—the red flag. The capitalist bosses hope that every worker waving a national flag is a potential soldier for imperialist war. PL'ers and friends must respond to this nationalist hysteria by selling CHALLENGE and using it to organize for multiracial unity, internationalism and communist revolution. That's the spirit of communism, where "winning" for the working class means seizing state power and building a communist world!✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Comrades Helped Me Find Confidence

I wasn't sure I was even going to come to the summer project. I'm a person riddled with anxiety, but in spite of that I mustered the courage to go out there and speak on a bullhorn, chant, and talk—and all of the above times ten. I've also always been a person that doubts as much as Rene Descartes, but after today I feel more reassured that the path I'm taking with PLP is the right one. Not only did I tap into strength I thought I didn't have, but it was everyone here—my comrades—that helped me find it.

I didn't expect the reception of us to be so positive, but it really was. People truly feel that this system is a failure, and that no politician can change that. They are just stuck in "lesser-evil" viewpoint, and see no alternative. I'm not really saying we are the chosen ones, but it really is up to us to change things. After reflecting on everything, I have more hope for the future, for me, and the Progressive Labor Party.

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Baton Rouge Leader Marches With PLP in Philly

As my first collective march with PLP in Philly, I was able to see many differences, but in a good way. Differences of opinions that in the end resulted in people taking a stand for what they believe and not being concerned with what people thought, but standing up regardless to what they thought. I witnessed some people break out of their shells and rise up with dignity, love, honor, and a sense of bravery for what was right. All in all, the experience with this march showed me how no matter the diversity in age, race, or opinion, people can all agree that our cities, states, country, and our world needs a change and people are ready to make it happen.

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Cleveland: Learning from the Working Class

I had the opportunity to spend a couple of days with comrades in Cleveland. We participated in a march protesting the Republican National Convention. But the police kept us far from the convention hall, and the streets we passed did not have many workers around. We decided that we would visit the park in which the police gunned down Tamir Rice. We found a memorial of stuffed animals on a picnic table and met a couple of women who had known Tamir.

They organized the community to plant a garden near the site of his murder. They also meet with boys in the neighborhood to help them come to grips with this tragedy. I met a young woman in the park with her three-year-old daughter who broke down in tears when we spoke about the incident.

We met a nine-year-old girl who helped us make a banner to commemorate Tamir and other victims of racist police killings. She also made a poster against racism. The park is located adjacent to an elementary school, a and a recreation center which were full of children and adults. Only under capitalism is it conceivable that in such a place a child would be killed for playing with a toy.

We went door to door in this multiracial neighborhood and met wonderful people. They took CHALLENGE! We made several contacts, including a young woman from Chicago who was going to school; a young mother who told us her family is multiracial; and a janitor who works in a church we visited.

Our collective experience shows us, time and time again, the working class is open to communist ideas. As an older comrade, my confidence in the working class and the party was bolstered. I met young comrades that took leadership and made me feel PLP will continue to be in good hands.

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Olympics: Imperialist Spectacle

A comrade and I were watching the opening ceremonies for the Olympics tonight, as many people probably were. One thing that's important to keep in mind is that these ceremonies are not just entertainment. Every performance has politics behind it. Opening ceremonies are a way for rising imperial powers to announce themselves to the world. Germany did so in the 1936 Olympics that it hosted, just before the start of World War II.

Just eight years ago, China hosted the Olympics and put on an opening ceremony that intimidated many because of the robotic discipline that the hundreds of performers had. In essence, their message was: watch out U.S. because China is large, powerful, and disciplined. As we know from our CHALLENGE editorials, China is a rising imperial power. It is an economic powerhouse and it has been building its military and political alliances in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The Olympic ceremony was just a way to mark its rise and send a message to the world.

Brazil is no exception. It has the ninth largest GDP (the total yearly value of a country's products) in the world and is projected to have the fourth largest by 2050. It is already a major player in Latin American politics. However, to continue rising, Brazil's bosses will need to discipline each other and the working class. Tonight's opening ceremony shows that Brazil's ruling class understands this fact. The performance highlighted the immense poverty in Brazil's favelas or the working class history of fierce fightback. By recognising these problems, the bosses also show a commitment to dealing with them. The ceremony showed everyone coming together at the end. Black, white, men, women, rich, and poor were all dancing in sync. The cameras kept flipping between the dancers on the stage, the crowd, and Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bundchen all dancing the same dance as the giant green fist representing working class fightback transformed into a peace sign. The message? Brazil's bosses are working towards all-class unity so that they can rise on the world stage.

Let's make no mistake: a stronger Brazil does not mean a better life for the working class in Brazil. The opening ceremony showed workers in the favelas dancing happily and indigenous workers celebrating the rainforest. As Brazil's bosses get richer, there will be even more racist police terror in the favelas and genocide of indigenous workers. The Olympics are just a nationalist lie. Worker's only ally is PLP!

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The Papers of Record Black Out Workers' Fightback

While the capitalist media continues to give 24/7, non-stop coverage to Donald Trump, there has been an almost complete news blackout of major struggles of working people. In the U.S., the six-week strike of 40,000 Verizon workers, members of the CWA and IBEW, against the telecommunications giant making $18 billion in profits annually, rarely made the news after Day 1, when both Hillary and Bernie spoke to the strikers while they were in NY for the Democratic Primary.

In France, over a million workers, mostly members of the CGT, have taken to the streets despite police attacks and tear gas, to oppose the new labor law being introduced by their "socialist" president. The law would impose the same free-market inequality and union-busting U.S. workers have confronted for almost two generations. It would shred the post WWII social contract by attacking pensions, overtime, job security and much more. When they do write something, the NY Times says the law will just make it "easier to lay-off workers," and focuses almost totally on the fighting between police and a small group of protesters.

In Mexico, a battle has been raging to stop the privatization of education in Oaxaca. Section 22, the most militant branch of the teachers union, has been on the front lines in this fight. Last week, police fired into a union-led march, killing six demonstrators. These brutal attacks come on the heels of recent meetings between the Presidents Pena Nieto of Mexico and Obama at the White House. Yet little if anything can be found in the corporate press.

The blackout on these struggles is not because these events are too dangerous to cover. It is the editorial policy of the ever-consolidating capitalist media, that would have us believe that no one is fighting back against the rise of fascist terror and increased attacks on workers everywhere. It makes the increased hand-to-hand distribution of CHALLENGE, through a widening series of networks of workers, soldiers and youth, a much more urgent task.

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Staying Alive through Revolutionary Struggle

I am writing to express appreciation for all that the late Bob Leonhardt did for our Progressive Labor Party and for the overall struggle for communism. He was among the longest-time associates and comrades I had. I met him in 1967, when someone pointed to him and another friend of his walking across Harvard and said to me: "Those guys are really smart. They understand Althusser." His comprehensive analysis helped thousands through CHALLENGE grasp the world's contradictions better. In my case, he was one of a tiny handful of people who understood what I was about in 1969 and who helped a very stressed out 24-year-old handle the complex stresses of the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) struggle, a mass organization that PLP was organizing in.

In many movements, there are those people who have organizational titles and then there are those who influence in a very lasting way, the consciousness of many, who in turn pass it on to many more. Bob was the latter. There was the Bob who trusted me with his precious Saab to travel around New Hampshire; the Bob who could speak of slave rebellions in Ancient Rome; and the Bob who, in an extraordinarily creative move, took a group of young people to the museum during a communist school to help them grasp dialectics. And there was the Bob who organized confrontations against the fascists, including the Battle of Boston in 1975 where his leadership helped train a whole generation of party members. Each of these and a thousand more had an impact on many who in turn are, and will continue to pass communism on. Because of that, we continue to grow in South America and now Africa and Asia.

I lately have come to think about things this way: none of us will live forever, but if a person carries the flame of communism, adds to it and passes it on to others—if you influence fifty people who then give twenty years to the revolutionary struggle, then wasn't that a life of a thousand years? And if then, those fifty people influence hundreds more? The party, the working class and the struggle for communism will be strengthened by your commitment and your contributions in ways that cannot be measured. Bob's life is a testament to this.

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Tribute to Bob Leonhardt

I attended the memorial service for comrade Bob Leonhardt who I met 51 years ago when we were organizing PLP. I listened to the many statements from friends, family and comrades on the effect that Bob had on their lives, on their development as communists and on the growth of the Party.

Now I realize that their testimonials are a fitting tribute revealing how his efforts, over decades, helped produce this wonderful group. It is through them, and in others they win, that Bob will live on in the march to revolution.

Applying Marxism to Pop Media

There is quite a lot workers can learn from the bosses' media with the correct Marxist political analysis. I want to give two examples of this that I have recently seen while watching the film "The Free State of Jones" and the BBC sci fi series "Survivors."

"The Free State of Jones" deals with a Confederate soldier named Newt Jones, an army medic who is disillusioned with the Confederate war cause. Jones sees through the ruling class lies that the war is a unifying cause for all whites when he witnesses Confederate bosses profiting from the war while poor southern white workers fight and die on the battle fields. Jones deserts and eventually makes common cause with runaway slaves. Eventually, other Confederate soldiers desert and join with him. Together these ex-rebels and slaves fight an armed struggle against the Confederate government.

Workers will see that Jones does not have revolutionary class-consciousness or an antiracist analysis. When the South loses and Reconstruction starts, Jones lacks the class analysis to understand that the former Confederate bosses who President Stephen Douglass puts back in power should be killed. These same bosses create the Klan to terrorize Black workers.

"Survivors" is a post-apocalypse show by Terry Nation about a global pandemic caused by a mutated flu strain that kills 90 percent of human species. The UK is the center of the show as a multiracial group of British workers led by Abby Grant tries to survive. No one tries to create an egalitarian communist society. The sole representative of UK government that survives try to restore society on capitalist lines, making deals with unsavory bosses like Henry Smithson who wants to super exploit workers who stage a revolt at a coal mine. It was a good series, but ideologically limited in how it portrays British working class. "Survivors" is on Netflix.

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Bratton Out, Prepare to Fight O'Neill

Broken Windows was responsible for the drop in crime (*Intifada*)-similar reductions in crime occurred in major U.S. cities at the same time, the drop in crime coincides with the end of the deadly crack epidemic in New York (New York Times, 10/27/97), which left working class communities ravaged with the influx of drugs.

Bratton Goes to the Clintons, Names Replacement

Bratton has accepted a job with Teneo Holdings, a consulting group linked closely to the Clinton political machine, as well as the Israeli bosses. Teneo was founded by Douglas Band, a close advisor to former President Clinton.

Bratton and De Blasio's hand picked successor, James O'Neill, will continue the policies that the rulers need. A student of Bratton's Broken Windows philosophy for 30 years, O'Neill has been "instrumental to developing community policing" (NYT 8/3/16). In 2015, Bratton himself said there was no difference between community policing and Broken Windows. The argument that any new form of policing will be any better is itself an illusion. The role of police ever since their origins as a colonial occupation force in Great Britain and fugitive slave patrols in the U.S. is to protect capitalist property, and divide and control the working class through racist terror.

The Fight Back Goes On!

Workers and families of those murdered by the cops have stood up against the NYPD with courage since Day 1. Probably most notable is Iris Baez, whose son Anthony was murdered outside her home in the Bronx. Mrs Baez and other parents led huge rallies and marches and became personal targets of Bratton. They united with other families in the Bronx and staged huge events that were multi-racial and militant. City wide protests have erupted in the past few months and involved actions such as closing down bridges, streets and highways. Thousands have protested in the street with groups such as Black Lives Matter and various coalitions. Progressive Labor Party has been involved and where possible, given leadership to this fight in Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Manhattan. As we stand shoulder to shoulder with the families of Shantel Davis, Kimani Gray, Eric Garner, Ramarley Graham, Sean Bell, Akai Gurley and Kyam Livingston, we have fought hard for our line that only multiracial unity can defeat racist police terror, and only a mass PLP fighting for communist revolution can end the capitalist system that relies on it.✪



Following the court's non-indictment decision for kkkop Darren Wilson for murdering Mike Brown in Ferguson, protesters hit Bratton with red paint, symbolizing the blood both Bratton and the criminal injustice system has on their hands for the murder of countless Black and Latin youth.

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Without communist politics, national "liberation" betrays workers

NYT, 8/7—The A.N.C., which was the party of Nelson Mandela and helped free South Africa from white-minority rule, suffered its worst losses ever at the polls in the municipal elections last week. Unrivaled for the past two decades, the party lost control of two black-majority cities, including the capital, Pretoria, in what many believe is a profound change in how race and the legacy of apartheid influence South African politics....

Few liberation movements that assumed power have been able to transform themselves with the changing times and needs.

Bill Clinton, Trump real buddies

Newsweek, 5/27— Despite recent rhetoric…Donald Trump and Bill Clinton were long-time friends….

Nine months ago, the Washington post reported that on a private, casual phone call last spring, Bill Clinton encouraged Trump to play a larger role in the Republican Party….

Prior to…February, Trump was known to defend the former president on multiple occasions. Meanwhile, Clinton has admitted the billionaire was "uncommonly nice to Hillary and me."

"I like him. And I love playing golf with him," Clinton said in a May 2012 interview with CNN….He spoke highly of Trump, despite the real estate tycoon's prominent role in the so-called "birther" movement,…questioning President Barack Obama's birth certificate. Trump, speaking to Fox News earlier that same year, said he thought Clinton was "a real good guy."

Trump's racism has long history

NYT, 7/23 — …In 1973…Trump and his father, Fred Trump, [were sued] for systematically discriminating against blacks in housing rentals….Donald Trump…then president of the family real estate firm…had a policy of discriminating against blacks, including those serving in the military….

Blacks were repeatedly dispatched as testers to Trump apartment buildings to inquire about vacancies, and whites testers were sent soon after. Repeatedly, the black person was told nothing was available, while the white tester was shown apartments for immediate rental.

A former building superintendent working for the Trumps…was told to code an application by a black person with the letter C, for colored,…so the office would know to reject it….

Fred Trump appears to have been arrested at a Ku Klux Klan rally in 1927….

…In 1989,…New York City was convulsed by the "Central Park jogger" case, a rape and beating of a young white woman. Five black and Latino teenagers were arrested.

Trump…bought full-page newspaper ads calling for the death penalty. The five teenagers spent years in prison before being exonerated….They suffered a modern version of a lynching, and Trump played a part in whipping up the crowds….

In 1991, a book by John O'Donnell, who had been president of the Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, quoted Trump as criticizing a black accountant…: "Black guys counting my money! I hate it….I think that guy is lazy….because laziness is a trait in blacks. It really is. I believe that….

Trump has also retweeted messages from white supremacists or Nazi sympathizers, including two from an account called @WhiteGenocideTM with photo of the American Nazi Party's founder….

The Daily Stormer, a neo-Nazi racist website…has endorsed Trump….

Yemen: U.S. oil war slaughters thousands

GW, 7/15 — Driving around war-battered Sana'a [Yemen], you can't help but notice….giant billboards, scrawled on walls — it's everywhere.

"America is killing Yemeni people. They are feeding on our blood," reads one billboard….

…The slogans are directed at the U.S. involvement in Yemen's civil war. Washington is backing a Saudi-led…. coalition's airstrikes, using U.S. and British-made bombs [and] have killed or wounded thousands of civilians…. There is suspicion here that Washington has gone to war over oil and other resources. "The American companies enter a country to steal its wealth and humiliate its people," reads another billboard.

Obama deploying 1,000 more to Poland

GW, 7/5 — Barack Obama has announced the deployment of 1,000 more U.S. troops to Poland to bolster NATO's eastern flank….

The U.S. troops will form one of NATO's four multinational battalions in Eastern Europe….

Next year, Obama said, a U.S. armored brigade would also be deployed to Europe with a base in Poland.



Jail kills immigrants by medical disregard

NYT, 7/8 — Deficient medical care contributed to…immigrants' deaths in federal detention…Doctors "identified evidence of substandard and potentially dangerous care" in…reports….In seven cases medical staff members failed to follow up on critical symptoms…providing "inadequate care that was…a factor in the deaths….

…Santiago Sierra-Sanchez, 38… [was] found in a pool of bloody vomit. A corrections officer called only for a medical assessment, delaying emergency medical services….Mr. Sierra-Sanchez died the same morning…of a respiratory infection….

Lelis Rodriguez, 50, had a history of hypertension, but a nurse who recorded his high blood pressure did not give him medication. Later that night he collapsed….falling into a coma… [and] was pronounced brain dead the next day…."There was repeated failure to follow up on symptoms that require attention…a researcher for Human Rights Watch said….

Obama, deporter-in-chief

NYT, 7/6 — The history of President Obama's legacy on immigration…will not go down as the president who boldly acted to protect millions of families from the brutality…of unforgiving immigration laws….He will be judged on what he actually did: deport more immigrants than any other president in American history, earning him the moniker "deporter in chief…."

Obama has deported around 2.5 million people…. about the same number as were deported in the entire 20th century….a brutal legacy of millions of families torn apart, many simply doing what they needed to do to protect and feed their children.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

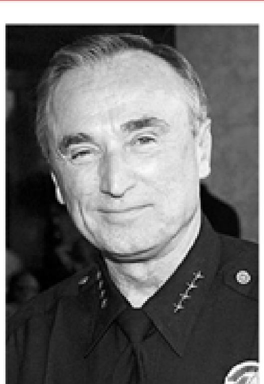
KKKop Chief Bratton: WANTED FOR RACIST CRIMES WORLDWIDE



Protest against the murder of Shantel Davis and Ramarley Graham in New York City 2012

WANTED





The kkkop in chief William Bratton and his gangsters terrorize, imprison, and murder our working-class youth every day.

FOR RACIST MURDERS

www.plp.org Twitter: @PLPchallenge Facebook: Challenge Desafio

NEW YORK CITY, August 10—While the ruling class laments the departure of their darling "top cop" William Bratton, the working class knows better! Under his first watch (1994-1996) many Black and Latin workers and youth were murdered in cold bood by the NYPD, including Anthony Baez, Hilton Vega, Anthony Rosario, Nicholas Hayward Jr.—and under his second watch (2013-2016) Shantel Davis, Kimani Gray, Ramarley Graham, Akai Gurley, Eric Garner, Kyam Livingston —and countless others. According to a report by Amnesty International, for instance, there was a 34 percent increase in people fatally shot by NYPD in Bratton's first year as Police Commissioner alone.

Under Bratton's Watch

Bratton helped to make the NYPD even more of an occupying force with his policies of "Stop and Frisk," "Broken Windows," racist quotas, the "quality of life initiative," and "zero tolerance." Under his watch, the NYPD became equipped with more firepower, semi-automatic weapons, drones, a new anti-protest unit and more surveillance units. Bratton's legacy leaves policies that strip Black and Latin workers of civil rights under the guise of promoting public safety. One of his stated goals was to rid the subway of homeless people. Under the "Broken Windows" policy, racist cops killed Eric Garner for the "crime" of selling loose cigarettes. This modern day lynching was caught on videotape and was met with militant and multi-racial demonstrations all over the country. Bratton 's reign in Los Angeles saw the mass displacement of homeless and the mentally ill. As LAPD Chief (Los Angeles Police Department) numerous trips were organized to Israel to observe and train with their security forces.

Bratton holds up Israel as a model for law enforcement worldwide (*Intifada*, 5/29/14). He has cultivated close ties to Israel, giving the keynote address at Israel's National Conference on Personal Security in Jerusalem.. Its no wonder that the violent and brutal repression practiced by Israeli forces has become a staple of U.S. law enforcement. In Bratton's words, his visits to Israel were "so we can learn from eachother" (*Intifada*). So, Bratton will continue to have blood on his hands as an international enemy of the working class.

De Blasio and Bratton, Birds of a Feather

"If he is bringing back Bratton, he can't be any good". This was the sentiment of parents whose family members were killed by the NYPD in the 1990's. Iris Baez, mother of Anthony Baez who was killed in a choke-hold in front of his house) explains in the film *Every Mothers Son* how Bratton targeted her family after her son's murder to intimidate and stop the growing movement. Despite the liberal talk of Mayor De Blasio in his bid for election, his challenging of "Stop and Frisk" and talk about fighting racism, it became clear that De Blasio had no intention of real change when he appointed Bratton in 2013. After two officers were killed in Brooklyn in December of 2014, De Blasio called for suspending all protests. In defiance, the Progressive Labor Party and other groups called demonstrations and took to the streets.

Crime and Capitalism

While Bratton blames the civil rights movement and the anti-war movement for the rise in crime (*Intifada*) he also credits himself and former Mayor Guiliani for the decrease in crime in the 1990's. Christian Parenti, author of Lockdown America, details how the NYPD went after young Black and Latin workers with a vengeance from everything to playing loud music to truancy during those years, incarcerating masses of these youth, while police brutality complaints jumped by 50%. While there is no empirical proof that

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